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Worldwide Report

EPIDEMIOLOGY

No. 266



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BRIEFS

BHOLA CHOLERA DEATHS--Bhola, Dec. 27--Epidemic diseases particularly Cholera have broken out in various 'Char' areas of Bhola Subdivision under Barisal District as the aftermath of the 10th December Cyclone and bore that hit the areas very badly. Until now a total of forty four (44) persons died of Cholera and about six hundred sixty persons (660) were attacked by it in the areas, says out Correspondent in a telephonic message. [Dacca THE NEW NATION in English 29 Dec 81 p 2]

MORE CHOLERA DEATHS--Bogra, Dec. 31--At least 15 people have died of cholera at village Harunja under Kalai police station in Bogra district. Cholera has broken out there in an epidemic form. The thana health complex could not do anything to contain the spread of the fatal disease as it had no curative and preventive medicine in its stock, it is alleged. The district health superintendent when contacted over telephone could not say anything definite on the situation in the village till the writing of this report. [Dacca THE NEW NATION in English 1 Jan 82 p 8]

'JHINJINA' DEATHS--Moulvi Bazar. Jan. 2--At least four persons died of a disease, popularly known as 'Jhinjina', during the last ten days. Jabbar (45) and Alam (50) of Kankapur Union died of 'Jhinjina' recently. Two other persons of village Naria also died of the same disease but their names could not be known. The spread of the disease has created panic in the subdivision. Local physicians opined that the disease is due to malnutrition. [Dacca THE NEW NATION in English 3 Jan 82 p 1]

CSO: 5400/7042

BRIEFS

AEDES AEGYPTI CONTROL--The Aedes Aegypti Mosquito population in Barbados has considerably decreased since the fogging exercise conducted by the Ministry of Health ended last September. Dr Vaughn Wells, Senior Medical Officer, said yesterday that the Ministry was quite satisfied with the results of the exercise which was aimed at eradicating the Aedes Aegypti Mosquito. It was carried out at a time when a number of Caribbean islands were experiencing outbreaks of Dengue Fever. Dr Wells disclosed that there was no severe outbreaks of Dengue Fever in Barbados, with just six cases reported. No cases have been reported since the fogging exercise began, he added. Areas fogged were mainly St Michael, Christ Church and St James. According to Dr Wells, these were all areas which, when inspected, showed a large population of Aedes Aegypti Mosquitos. In July, when news of the outbreaks reached Barbados, the Pan American Health Organisation received four fogging machines, two of which were used by the Barbados Government in its Aedes Aegypti eradication programmes. Dr Wells said that these machines were still in the possession of the Ministry of Health and further fogging exercises would be carried out in other areas if investigation showed that the mosquito population in these areas was high. [Excerpt] [Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 30 Dec 81 p 1]

CSO: 5400/7522

BRIEFS

YELLOW FEVER FROM PARAGUAY--The SUCAM [superintendency for public health campaigns] superintendent in Mato Grosso, Edyr Pedroso Daubin, revealed yesterday that practically all the Paraguayan territory is infested with the yellow-fever-carrying mosquito *Aedes Aegypti*; and admitted that such a situation poses a threat to Brazil, mainly in neighboring areas in Mato Grosso and Parana states, Argentina and Bolivia, although he dismissed that an epidemic might occur. Emilia Nakaya Kanomata, technical assistant and SUCAM chief of operations, reported that all the fatal cases in Mato Grosso were caused by the forest dwelling mosquito *Haemagogus*. City people are not likely to contract the disease unless they move into areas which are this mosquito's natural habitat. According to the SUCAM regional superintendent, the question is already being discussed by Brazilian authorities at the ministerial level and by Brazilian and Paraguayan specialists who met in Foz do Iguacu early this month. [Excerpts] [PY020045 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 29 Jan 82 p 12]

CSO: 4600/238

TRANSMITTAL OF DANGEROUS BACTERIA TO WEST WORRIES DANES

Copenhagen BERLINGSKE TIDENDE in Danish 19 Jan 82 p 3

[Text] In a number of instances, patients from Arab countries have transmitted bacteria to Denmark which are resistant to antibiotics and, therefore, are particularly dangerous if transmitted to other patients.

Against this background, physicians at the Department of Burns of Hvidovre Hospital request all hospital wards in this country receiving patients from countries such as the Arab countries to isolate such patients immediately until it has been ascertained whether they are carriers of the resistant bacteria.

These very bacteria occur in particular in the Arab countries where antibiotics are often used indiscriminately and may be purchased over the counter.

Normally, the said bacteria will perish quickly in the competition with other bacteria, but if they occur among patients who are being treated with antibiotics or whose resistance to bacteria has been lowered--thus especially in hospital environments--such patients risk developing serious infections.

BERLINGSKE TIDENDE has previously mentioned an epidemic which caused several sections of the Department of Burns of Hvidovre Hospital to be closed for 42 days. The resistant bacteria had been brought into the country by an oil sheik from Qatar.

However, the result of the incident was that the hospital decided to isolate all patients, including Danes, who had entered the hospital from abroad, as well as from Greenland. Such patients are immediately put into private rooms and are tested for the resistant bacteria.

Since then, the Department of Burns has received eleven such patients, and, as in the first case, the so-called multiresistant bacteria were found in these patients. Two of the patients had to be isolated.

In other countries, for example the Netherlands, there have been deaths resulting from the spread of the dangerous bacteria.

Even if the bacteria are resistant to normal treatments with antibiotics, most of them may be fought with, for example, Fusidin or Rifampicin, but during the treatment, these bacteria may also become resistant to such preparations.

BRIEFS

COMPULSORY MEASLES VACCINATION SEEN--If measles are to be eradicated through vaccination in Denmark, large-scale support will be needed, and the population will have to become motivated to have all small children vaccinated. This statement was made by Dr. Henrik Zoffmann, chief physician at the State Serum Institute, and Dr. Chr. Koch of the National Hospital. They write in UGESKRIFT FOR LÆGER that, in view of the many years of experience abroad, it may now be reasonable to discuss anew whether we in this country should start extensive measles vaccinations. A new vaccine from the United States seems particularly good and without side effects, and unless there is a nearly 100 percent support of measles vaccinations among the population, we shall gradually have a group of adults who are without protection. In this country, probably very few will support compulsory vaccination against a normal children's disease, which only in extremely rare cases is fatal, it is stated, but compulsory vaccination has been necessary in the United States. [Text] [Copenhagen BERLINGSKE TIDENDE in Danish 19 Jan 62 p 5] 7262

CSO: 5400/2075

GUINEA-BISSAU

BRIEFS

NO MORE SMALLPOX--A note from the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs announces that smallpox has been totally eradicated in Guinea-Bissau. Therefore, beginning immediately, smallpox vaccinations will end throughout the national territory. The note also mentions that certificates of smallpox vaccinations no longer are required at ports and airports upon departure or arrival. [Text] [Bissau NO PINTCHA in Portuguese 13 Jan 82 p 3]

CSO: 5400/5791

INDIA

BRIEFS

GASTROENTERITIS DEATHS--Midnapore, Jan. 4--There have been three more deaths because of gastro-enteritis at Amtali in the Contai sub-division. Four people had died earlier at Mahishali village. According to official sources, the disease spread after the recent cyclone. Meanwhile, the Home Secretary to the Orissa Government has informed the district magistrate of Midnapore that five fishermen who had survived the cyclone left Satbhaia island in Orissa for Digha by country boats 10 days ago. But the 40 fishermen who left Digha before the cyclone were still untraced. [Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 4 Jan 82 p 7]

CSO: 5400/7039

MOZAMBIQUE

BRIEFS

ALCOHOL, TRACHOMA AGGRAVATE BLINDNESS--"Cachaco," the traditional alcoholic beverage made on the basis of a fruit called "massanica," also known as "masawo," is seriously affecting the retinas of the residents of the city of Tete, where statistics report increasing cases of blindness. Carol Marshall, a physician of the general clinic of the Tete Provincial Hospital, told DIARIO DE MOCAMBIQUE that the beverage in question contains a high percentage of methane alcohol or methanol, which accumulates in quantities in the eyes of the consumers, causing blindness. An inquiry now in progress in the city of Tete on the causes of blindness also reports that most cases are due to manifestations of trachoma and malnutrition, except in the cases of those who became blind during the war, in ambushes, bombardments, or were hit by antipersonnel mines. [Excerpts] [Beira DIARIO DE MOCAMBIQUE in Portuguese 3 Dec 81 p 2] 11635

CSO: 5400/5724

OFFICIAL SAYS MALARIA INCIDENCE REDUCED

GF250425 Karachi DAWN in English 22 Jan 82 p 8

[By H. A. Hamied]

[Excerpt] The implementation of malaria control programme has brought down the incidence of the disease to a low level. This was disclosed by the director of malaria control, Dr S. M. Mujtaba, while talking to DAWN.

He said the directorate of malaria control was reducing the number of breeding places by providing municipalities with water pumping machines and through land reclamation. The main breeding places are ponds and stagnant water.

Dr Mujtaba said that the federal government was providing the municipalities with larvicide for use on ponds and stagnant water. More breeding places meant more expenditure was required to control vector-borne diseases, he said.

In Karachi, he said, there were 18 hospitals and dispensaries where malaria cases are detected by taking the blood slides from fever cases, and these slides were examined for malarial parasites. The patients were given anti-malaria treatment and this process has been continuing. Dr Mujtaba said that 18 microscopists of the directorate of malaria control evaluated and assessed malaria incidence in different parts of Karachi.

Referring to the rural and urban areas in the country in 1975, he said, 3.20 million people had been examined microscopically, out of which 238,315 were found to be positive cases and the parasite rate was 7.53 percent.

In 1976, out of 2.85 million people examined, the number of positive cases was estimated at 122,219, and the percentage of parasite rate was 4.28 percent. In 1977 the number of persons examined was 2.66 million, out of which 47,571 were found to be positive cases, and the rate of parasite was 1.78 percent.

In 1978, out of 2.58 million people examined, 16,160 were found to be positive cases, and the rate of parasite was 0.62 percent.

In 1979, the number of persons examined was 2.68 million, out of which 12,304 were found to be positive cases, and the rate of parasite was 0.45 percent.

In 1980, out of three million people, 17,707 were positive cases, and the rate of parasite was reduced to 0.59 percent.

The gradual decline of the parasite rate, he said, was to be sustained and maintained. Dr Mujtaba said the major factors hindering the reduction of the disease are climatic condition of the country which was considered to be very favourable for transmission of the disease.

CSO: 5400/4542

BRIEFS

CHOLERA UPDATE--More than 400 reports of cholera were confirmed in the past week, a Department of Health and Welfare statement said yesterday. Of the total of 434 reported cases since January, 198 had occurred in Natal, 200 in KwaZulu and 36 in Lebowa. No deaths had been reported. Outbreaks of bacillary dysentery at schools in Magaliesburg as well as at the Central Prison in Pretoria had largely subsided, the statement said. Two different species of Shigella had been responsible for those outbreaks, although the mode of transmission and control did not differ much.--Sapa. [Text] [Johannesburg THE CITIZEN in English 6 Feb 82 p 3]

VIRUS HITS ELSBURG--A viral infection, which could be connected with the spreading Krugersdorp infection, has now encroached on the lives of Elsburg residents. More than 60 victims have been treated by local doctors. According to a Germiston practitioner, the disease is contagious and attacks the skin. "We are at a loss as to what to apply, but we are working on the problem," Dr William Brookes said. "All we know is that it is not chickenpox." Although Dr Brookes believes that it could be in some way connected with the Krugersdorp infection, he stresses the difference is that this virus "is in no way connected with the stomach." Another Germiston doctor, who has treated a number of virus patients, believes the disease is restricted to the Elsburg area. He said that he was waiting for the results of blood tests before making an analysis. Matron Human of the Willem Cruywagen hospital in Germiston told THE CITIZEN that she did not know anything about the matter. "No children have been admitted to the hospital and we don't know what is going on," she said. [Text] [Johannesburg THE CITIZEN in English 29 Jan 82 p 2]

SHIGELLA 'BUG'--The Shigella "bug" that struck down about two hundred Magaliesburg children appears to have run its course in the district. Only 16 of the original 172 child patients are still in the Paardekraal Hospital Krugersdorp. A hospital spokesman said that the 16 would be discharged within the course of the next few days. On the other hand the number of children ill at Boys Town has increased from Thursday's 23 to 26. Father Lionel Sham the principal of the home told THE CITIZEN last night that the illness appeared to have stabilised itself. "From Wednesday onwards the boys were struck down like nine pins. On Wednesday we had 3, on Thursday 23 and today 26." All their temperatures are normalising and almost all of them will be discharged at the weekend. Father Sham said that as far as he was aware only one other patient, other than the children at the Bekker Primary School and his home, was affected in the Magaliesburg area. This patient was one of the staff's children living in Magaliesburg. He had gone down with Shigella but was making rapid progress. [Text] [Johannesburg THE CITIZEN in English 30 Jan 82 p 2]

BRIEFS

MOSQUITO-BORNE MYSTERY DISEASE--Mosquito-borne diseases have recorded a dramatic increase throughout the country over the past few months. Dengue fever, malaria, and filaria cases have risen with the sudden increase in the mosquito population according to medical reports. The southern region of the country, specially the Embilipitiya area, is now the focus of an investigation which has been launched. According to reports an unusual epidemic akin to malaria is spreading. Medical reports show that the symptoms of the unknown disease are fever, over a period of two weeks, vomiting, headaches skin rashes and shivering. All regional officers of the Anti-Malaria Campaign have been directed to intensify the spraying of malathion and other pesticides to control the mosquito population while the collection of blood samples too has been intensified. The AMC has meanwhile ordered a double quota of malathion for this year, the excess of which would be used in 1983. [Colombo SUN in English 11 Jan 82 p 1]

CSO: 5400/4919

SHORTAGE OF FUNDS FOR CHOLERA FIGHT QUESTIONED

Mbabane THE TIMES OF SWAZILAND in English 22 Jan 82 p 2

[Text] **THE STUNNING** disclosures this week that the Ministry of Health desperately needed over half a million Emalangeni to fight cholera have surprised the entire nation.

And more so because it had earlier been stated that the Ministry of Finance, the custodian of the nation's funds, did not have this money.

This, however, has since been denied by officials in the ministry including the minister himself. Mr. James Simelane who said he had suggested to the health officials to submit their request for the funds.

It would seem there has been some misunderstanding between the two ministries' officials on this rather urgent matter.

However, now that the Ministry of Finance has reacted by denying the earlier allegations, all that remains for the Ministry of Health is to submit the request without further delay.

The presence of this killer disease in this country, and the seriousness of the threat it presents to the nation is

obvious to all. New cases are confirmed almost everyday and the death toll since last October now stands at over 20. Over 430 positive cases have been confirmed since then.

This clearly shows how serious the situation is now, and the sooner a solution to the misunderstanding between the two ministries is found the better.

And the longer it takes to resolve it the more innocent lives (that would otherwise be saved) will be lost.

It is also a known fact that the Ministry of Health is already working under great pressure, particularly because of the inavailability of appropriate facilities such as transport and drugs, to name but only a few.

As for transport, we think the health officials are being unfairly frustrated in their noble effort to fight this disease. Many government cars spend most of the day moving up and down, but doing no official duties.

A fleet of cars used by visiting officials during the King's Diamond Jubilee celebrations have been parked somewhere in Mbabane since last September.

While these cars are lying idle there at the nation's expense, a rural clinic nurse somewhere is struggling without success at times to get a serious cholera case to the nearest hospital.

The lives of some of the cholera cases would have been saved had there been transport to rush them to hospital. A rural clinic nurse related recently how she has to stop passing cars to convey critically ill cholera patients.

These are sometimes transported from rural clinics to the nearest hospital in public buses with drip-stands hanging from the buses' windows.

Some clinics in the out lying areas have no telephones and sufficient water supplies. Last week, a rural clinic nurse had to board a bus to the nearest town to get clean water after the water reservoir in the clinic had run dry.

Facilities at most government hospitals still leave much to be desired. These are the hospitals upon which the vast majority of the ordinary Swazis are dependent because of comparatively lower fees charged there.

Doctors are resigning from the public service at an alarming rate because of poor working

conditions, including remunerations.

The present Minister for Health Dr. Samuel Hynd has on several occasions, including in Parliament voiced his concern at the conditions in government hospitals.

The reasons given for the poor conditions in the hospitals and clinics is limited funds.

For how long is government going to allow this state of affairs to continue unchecked? It is true Swaziland is a developing country and as such still relies upon foreign aid. But, if only as a nation we knew our priorities.

If a hospital as big as Mbabane general hospital in Botswana can have as many doctors as 30 when Mbabane general hospital has less than ten, then there must be something wrong with our way of doing things.

Since the present outbreak of cholera has proved that we cannot continue to move at our old pace, we appeal to government leaders to get together and give a serious thought to the present cholera crisis.

We also appeal that any funds available must be given to the Ministry of Health without further delay. Many innocent lives have been lost already.

KAHAMA DISTRICT RABIES QUARANTINE

Dar es Salaam DAILY NEWS in English 19 Jan 82 p 3

[Text] Shinyanga--The whole area of Kahama district has been placed under quarantine following outbreak of rabies.

The District Veterinary Officer Dr Ngowi Nicholas has banned the movement of dogs, cats, or any other animal of the canine or feline families into or out of the area without a written permit from the Veterinary Division.

He also asked pet owners to confine their pets warning that stray ones would be killed and owners be prosecuted.

CSO: 5400/5787

BRIEFS

ANTHRAX OUTBREAK--An outbreak of anthrax has been reported at Uchira Village in Moshi District, as three residents of the village were admitted at Mawenzi Government Hospital, for treatment of the disease. The livestock officer in charge at Uchira Village, Ndugu Patrick Likwetu, told Shihata yesterday that there was another case at Miwaleni, which needed to be confirmed by doctors. [Text] [Dar es Salaam SUNDAY NEWS in English 24 Jan 82 p 1]

TYPHOID FEVER OUTBREAK--Twenty-four people have been admitted at an emergency health centre at Manolo Village in Lushoto District for treatment following an outbreak of typhoid fever at the Village. District Medical Officer Andrew Kombo told Shihata yesterday that eighty other people are also receiving treatment in their respective homes after contracting the disease. He said that the disease has been proved to be typhoid fever after doctors at the Bumbuli Hospital had analysed blood samples of the affected patients. The blood samples were sent to the hospital for analysis last Monday when the number of patient was around fifty people. He said that although the disease has affected a large number of people so far, it has not claimed life since it broke out a week ago. Meanwhile, the Tanga Regional Medical Officer, Dr. William Madundo, yesterday visited the village to assess the situation and co-ordinative efforts to combat the disease. [Text] [Dar es Salaam SUNDAY NEWS in English 17 Jan 82 p 1]

DAR ES SALAAM DISTRICT ANTIRABIES CAMPAIGN--The Ministry of Livestock Development is launching a two week anti-rabies campaign in the city starting next Wednesday. An official of the ministry said the campaign was aimed at fighting the disease which he said was a threat to public health. The campaign would cover all the three districts of Dar es Salaam. [Text] [Dar es Salaam DAILY NEWS in English 13 Jan 82 p 3]

CHOLERA DEATHS IN IGUNGA--Tabora--Cholera has claimed 52 lives in Igunga district in Tabora region since the disease broke out there last month, an official of the Tabora Regional Health Office has reported. Quoting a report from Igunga, an official said 317 people had been receiving treatment at several cholera control centres set up in affected villages. All primary schools in Igunga district remain closed until further notice and the quarantine which had been imposed last month will remain in force, the official added. A massive control campaign aimed at educating people to maintain cleanliness, boil drinking water and use latrines, has been launched with a warning that manipulation of the control measures would lead to more people dying from the disease. [Text] [Dar es Salaam DAILY NEWS in English 27 Jan 82 p 3]

TYPHOID, MENINGITIS, HEPATITIS REPORTED IN ANKARA

Twelve Fatalities

Istanbul GUNAYDIN in Turkish 2 Dec 81 p 4

[Text] Ankara--Enver Senerdem, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Health and Welfare, said that so far 12 people have died in the typhoid outbreak in Ankara.

In a statement on the issue, Senerdem said that following the detection of the typhoid outbreak in the capital 934 persons reported to hospitals for examination. Senerdem added that of these 688 were placed under medical care and 226 were discharged. Senerdem stated that the outbreak has been largely brought under control as a result of the measures taken.

Contracting typhoid may lead to death if the sick person does not seek medical help in time. The main causes for the disease include the seepage of sewage water into the drinking water supply, the consumption of green vegetables without properly washing them and inadequate cleanliness.

Typhoid Outbreak Halted

Istanbul MILLIYET in Turkish 3 Dec 81 p 3

[Text] Ankara--The Ministry of Health and Welfare has announced that the typhoid outbreak observed in the Haskoy, Ulubey and Solfasol districts of Ankara has been stabilized and that 695 of the 994 suspected typhoid patients have been found to have contracted the typhoid microbe.

It is also reported that so far 13 people have lost their lives in the typhoid outbreak in Ankara and that hepatitis is another major disease among patients being treated in hospitals.

Following is the text of the statement issued by the Ministry of Health and Welfare in connection with the issue:

"The typhoid outbreak observed in the Haskoy, Ulubey and Solfasol districts has not been stabilized.

"So far 994 suspected typhoid patients have been admitted to our hospitals. Our laboratories have determined that 695 of these have contracted typhoid. The rest have been treated for other types of diseases which cause fever. Apart from the typhoid infectious hepatitis cases are most common among patients under treatment.

"It is important for the health of our people that they follow our advice. Proper scientific work on the issue is under way. Although the typhoid outbreak may be considered halted for the moment continued responsive cooperation with official organizations is still necessary. We would like to thank on this occasion the whole [Ankara] municipal organization and the Mayor in particular for their understanding and knowledgeable cooperation. Of citizens being treated for typhoid so far 13 have died."

Meningitis, Hepatitis Outbreak

Istanbul MILLIYET in Turkish 1 Dec 81 p 8

[Text] Ankara--Following the typhoid outbreak in some districts of Ankara it has been announced that among people who reported to hospitals for treatment 400 were found to have contracted typhoid.

Enver Senerdem, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Health and Welfare, said that following the discovery of the typhoid outbreak all patients who have reported to hospitals for examination for typhoid are undergoing laboratory tests.

Senerdem stated that laboratory test results have shown that so far 400 people have definitely contracted typhoid. He added that these persons have been placed in quarantine and are being given proper treatment.

Stating that the outbreak has largely been brought to a halt as a result of measures taken, Senerdem said that "280 suspected typhoid patients have been discharged from hospitals." Senerdem said that currently there are 977 persons undergoing laboratory tests for typhoid and that so far 9 persons have died of typhoid.

Hepatitis and Meningitis

In connection with rumors to the effect that there are also hepatitis and meningitis outbreaks around, Senerdem said:

"During tests and analyses on some of the patients who have reported to hospitals on suspicion of typhoid viruses of hepatitis, meningitis and paratyphoid as well as cases of intestinal infection were encountered. However these are seasonal diseases. Meningitis is particularly common among children."

Stating that work is under way to prevent these diseases, Senerdem said: "Hepatitis and meningitis viruses breed as a result of substandard levels in infrastructure systems. The occurrence of these diseases is not unexpected in view of this perpetuating situation." Senerdem also added that no vaccination service is provided in areas already affected by the typhoid outbreak and that, however, preventive immunization campaign will soon begin in other areas.

9588

CSO: 5400/5307

ISTANBUL HEALTH CARE FACILITIES SAID TO BE INSUFFICIENT

Istanbul MILLIYET in Turkish 3 Dec 81 p 3

[Text] The panel conference organized jointly by the Ministry of Health and the Istanbul Provincial Health Directorate began yesterday in the conference room of the Istanbul Sisli Children's Hospital.

The Governor of Istanbul, Nevzat Ayaz, gave a speech during the panel conference which is attended by head surgeons, directors and authorized accountants from Health Ministry hospitals in the provinces of Istanbul, Edirne, Kirlareli, Tekirdag, Bursa, Zonguldak, Sakarya, Kocaeli, and Bilecik.

Governor Ayaz said in his speech: "The health problems of our country constitute an issue which is spoken about by everybody every day. Problems in connection with this issue have continued despite the Full Day Law. Personnel problems have begun with the Full Day Law. Also, Istanbul's health problems are not just a problem of this province; they constitute a health problem for the whole country.

"Currently there are 24,000 hospital beds in Istanbul. This figure rises to 25,000 if private hospitals are included. The shortage in beds and personnel--except nurses--in Istanbul is a problem for the whole country. Istanbul provides 80 percent of the treatment for psychological illnesses."

Stating that health institutions are not operating at a level desired by the citizens Ayaz said that the proper distribution of polyclinics is very important.

The panel conference is attended by head surgeons from 18 state and 5 municipal hospitals in Istanbul. Dr Lutfu Koselioglu, the Director General of the Treatment Centers, said in his speech at the conference that 40 percent of the hospital beds in Turkey cannot be utilized as a result of personnel shortages. He added: "Human resources must be mobilized in order to solve this problem. The Full Day Law was enacted as a result of this problem."

Administrative, financial and personnel problems of hospitals will be discussed at the panel conference which is chaired by Istanbul Provincial Health Director Nuri Erturkoglu. The conference will last 4 days.

9588

CSO: 5400/5307

TURKEY

UNSAFE MEDICINES POSING TURKISH HEALTH THREAT

Istanbul CUMHURIYET in Turkish 21 Dec 81 pp 1,9

[Report by Sukran Ketenci]

[Text] Statistics as well as studies by concerned professional organizations and scientists prove that controls on medicines harmful to health are badly inadequate. The few inspections that can be carried out have revealed that there is a large incidence of spoiled medicines. The badly inadequate market inspection of medicines in the past 9 years reveal that of the medicines inspected 15 to 18 percent--in other words, 1 out of every 5 medicines--are harmful to or unnecessary for health. Meanwhile, during the past 9 years not only has the total number of medicines inspected fallen but also the proportion of medicines inspected has dropped from 38.8 percent to 14.6 percent.

Various reports prepared by pharmacists' chambers emphasize that inspections are inadequate not only in number but in quality as well. These reports also claim that the confiscation of a whole line of medicines in the event of a failure to meet standards serves no useful purpose and that spoiled medicines can only be controlled at their source.

Kasim Cemal Guven, Professor of Pharmaceutical Technology at the Faculty of Pharmacy of the University of Istanbul, says that the responsibility of quality control of medicines must wholly be assumed by the government. Guven states: "However, it is also very important that the manufacturer prove that inspection procedures are executed to the letter during the manufacture of the drug."

Related professional organizations as well as Pharmacists' Chambers of Ankara and Istanbul and Pharmacy Owners' Associations of Ankara and Istanbul complain that government supervision of quality control of medicines remains far below adequate levels.

According to a study published in the Bulletin of the Ankara Pharmacists' Chamber market inspections of medicines as required by law carried out by Health Directorates and government surgeons general have dropped in number over the years. The number of medicine types inspected has fallen from 1,552 in 1972 to 584 in 1979 and 786 in 1980. A large incidence of substandard medicines has been found among those inspected in these years. Moreover, quality has deteriorated instead of improving over the years. In the period considered the proportion of

spoiled medicines has risen from 12.6 percent to 18.1 percent. Market inspections, which are badly inadequate both in number and quality, show that 1 out of each 5 medicines sold on the market contain harmful or useless substances.

Professor Kasim Cemal Guven says:

"In order for the government to carry out the inspection of medicines properly a state medicine control institute must be set up under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Health and Welfare. This institution must then inspect each medicine at certain frequent intervals in accordance with a procedure to be established.

"On paper quality control is performed at every manufacturing facility as required by law. However, unless it is verified that these inspections are actually carried out auto-control will not work adequately. The manufacturer must be told about his responsibilities and auto-control must be made to function by a proper supply of equipment and experts."

9558

CSO: 5400/5308

EPIDEMIC OF WHOOPING COUGH REPORTED

Taipei THE CHINA POST in English 9 Jan 82 p 3

[Text]

London, Jan. 7 (AP) Britain is experiencing an epidemic of the childhood disease whooping cough with 700 cases a week being reported, the government reported Thursday.

A spokesman for the Department of Health and Social Security said, however, it was too early to tell whether the peak figure of 2,000 cases a week reported during the last whooping cough epidemic in 1978 would be reached. The usual number of cases is 200 to 300 per week.

The disease, caused by the bacillus *bordetella pertussis*, is characterized by a mucous discharge from the nose and later by repeated attacks of

coughing that end in a forced intake of breath, or whoop. It is highly contagious, usually occurs in children under the age of three and is on rare occasions fatal.

The spokesman said notices would be sent next week to local health authorities urging all young children be vaccinated.

The level of vaccination among British children has dropped from 80 percent in 1974 to 40 percent last year, at least in part because of disclosures that the vaccine had caused brain damage in a small number of cases. But health officials stress the risk of harm from the vaccine is far less than risk posed by the disease itself.

CSO: 5400/4919

TOWN OF KALEMIA QUARANTINED

Lubumbashi Mjumbe LE QUOTIDIEN DU SHABA in French 16-17 Oct 81 pp 1, 8

[Text] The town of Kalemia has been quarantined because of the cholera that has broken out there. This was apparent from the decree issued by the regional MPR president and governor of Shaba, citizen Mandungu Bula Nyati. The text of the decree is printed below:

Article 1: The town of Kalemia has been declared infected with cholera.

Article 2: The town has been placed under quarantine and no one may enter or leave until a new ordinance has been issued.

On Wednesday, 30 September 1981, we published a report on an epidemic of diarrhea in Kalemia, which had affected numerous persons for the past month.

After about a week, the regional medical inspector denied the report before the commissioner of the Salumu region. According to him, there had been neither a diarrhea nor a cholera epidemic in Kalemia. This denial was made in the presence of the press (cf. Mjumbe, 6 October 1981).

Following publication of the report on the diarrhea epidemic in Kalemia, representatives of the various press organs were summoned by the sub-regional commissioner of Tanganika who exhorted them to be cautious in a manner bordering on intimidation. Moreover, according to new trickling in from Kalemia, the AZAP representative who reported the news actually risked being banished from the sub-region of Tanganika.

Today, the facts are self-evident, and cholera has been officially declared!

7072

CSO: 5400/5766

ZAIRE

POPULATION SUFFERING FROM DIARRHEA, MALARIA

Lubumbashi Mjumbe LE QUOTIDIEN DU SHABA in French 16-17 Oct 81 p 3

[Text] The sub-region of Tanganika has been attacked by diarrhea and malaria. This report was made by the president of the pharmacists of Shaba, citizen Likango, who recently went to the abovementioned administrative region.

The president of the pharmacists said that several persons had already died due to diarrhea which had become endemic. He would like to request intermediate intervention by the authorities in order to control the situation. This intervention would consist of supplying appropriate drugs for the diseases to the medical centers of Kalemia.

Citizen Likango, who returned from Kalemia last week, came back with a major order from the sub-regional physician and the Filtisaf company which pertained to these diseases.

While he was in Kalemia, the president of the pharmacists of Shaba evaluated the organization of the Filtisaf company.

He indicated that the company treats its agents and workers very seriously.

Citizen Likango, who intends to open a pharmacy in Kalemia, was planning to take the train yesterday, Sunday, to the capital of the sub-region of Tanganika.

7072

CSO: 5400/5766

VILLAGERS HAMPER CHOLERA PREVENTION

Lusaka TIMES OF ZAMBIA in English 23 Jan 82 p 5

[Text]

GOVERNMENT efforts to control the spread of cholera in Luapula Province are being hampered by villagers who are ignoring instructions from health authorities in the area.

Villagers have ignored a ban on the consumption of fish, raw cassava and receiving visitors from Zaire.

Travellers from Mwense district where the killer disease first broke out a month ago said yesterday villagers had continued to eat fish and cassava, the staple food in the area.

Fourteen people have died

in Mwense, Nchelenge and Kawambwa since the outbreak.

Meanwhile, the shortage of cholera vaccines on the Copperbelt has been alleviated following the arrival of 2,000 doses.

The provincial medical officer Dr Vinayak Ganu said in Ndola yesterday the consignment arrived on Thursday and the vaccine was immediately distributed to hospitals and health centres where supplies had run out.

Dr Ganu said more vaccines were expected to be sent to the province within a few days.

CSO: 5400/5781

MEASLES IMMUNIZATION CAMPAIGN, DEATHS

Lusaka SUNDAY TIMES in English 24 Jan 82 p 1

[Text]

AN average of 15 children die of measles every month in Lusaka Province because of their parents' failure to get them vaccinated against the killer disease, provincial medical officer Dr Chitwa Chimbini has said.

The situation, although not yet alarming was "very serious".

Dr Chimbini said his office had launched an immunisation campaign against the disease, starting with Chawama township.

The drive involves Party officials who were required to advise on health precautions and the need for mothers to take their children to clinics for immunisation.

Cases of measles, according to Dr Chimbini, were not only confined to peri-urban areas, but even in low density housing areas.

Records at the provincial medi-

cal officers' office show that on average between 30 to 40 babies were admitted at the University Teaching Hospital (UTH) every month, resulting in some deaths.

Last year a team of health experts launched a door-to-door immunisation drive in Kanyama township, but such an exercise proved costly to the Government.

Dr Chimbini appealed to husbands to urge their wives to take children to clinics for vaccination.

The authorities believe the epidemic could be contained only when mothers took their children to clinics.

CSO: 5400/5780

EIGHT NEW CHOLERA CASES REPORTED

Lusaka TIMES OF ZAMBIA in English 25 Jan 82 p

[Text]

EIGHT new cases of cholera have been reported in some areas in Luapula Province where the killer disease has so far claimed 14 lives.

Member of the Central Committee for the province Mrs Mary Fulano, who has just completed a tour of districts where medical personnel are trying to contain the situation, said in a telephone interview yesterday four new cases had been reported in Kawambwa and four on Kilwa Island near the border with Zaire.

Mrs Fulano commended efforts health officers were making particularly in en-

suring personal hygiene among villagers.

She attributed the fresh outbreak of cholera to people who ignored medical instructions.

The work of the health team was being hampered by villagers living on islands who depend on supplies of essential goods and food from Zaire.

Mrs Fulano appealed to village headmen, chiefs and Party leaders to impress upon the villagers on the need to obey medical instructions.

She said most of the people who were admitted to various health centres for cholera had been discharged. Only 16 were still receiving treatment at Lukwesa clinic.

CSO: 5400/5779

COW SMELL LURES TSETSE TO STERILITY

Salisbury THE HERALD in English 14 Jan 82 p 11

[Article by Davison Maruziva]

[Text]

AN experiment set up in April last year to control introduced tsetse flies on Antelope Island in Lake Kariba has produced promising results.

The chief glossinologist (research), of the Tsetse Control Branch, Dr Glyn Vale, in an interview this week, said there were two methods involved. One was based on visual and the other on visual-odour attractants. (A glossinologist is a scientist studying flies.)

The visual system entails the use of a black triangular screen divided by a wire netting. It attracts the flies by its movement from a suspended position.

The flies ingest the insecticide, which is sprayed on to the screen before it is put in the field, and eventually die. The visual method has already been in use on the Kariba mainland, under a project being carried out by Mr Stanley Flint.

"We are waiting to see what happens, but results so far have been promising," Dr Vale said.

But the visual-odour attractant method holds more promise. Said Dr Vale: "It is the one that is going to make the difference. At the moment

the job is to identify the exact odour which is the attractant."

He has been working on this particular approach for the last six years, but was not totally satisfied with the rate at which his work was progressing.

"I have got somewhere, but I did not get there fast enough," he said.

The main advantages of the two methods are: they are backyard technology — locally produced and less expensive to implement; they do not pose any hazards to the environment; and work can be done throughout the year.

An analytical approach which aims to identify the chemicals from a cow's breath has been formulated. The breath of a cow is known to attract tsetse flies in considerable numbers.

The same approach is being pursued by Dr John Hargrove, of the Tsetse Control Branch's research section, Professor Einar Bursell, of the Bristol Tsetse Laboratory, and Professor David Hall, Miss Brenda Nashitt and Mr Peter Bedford, of the Tropical Products Institute in London.

The findings of these analysts are examined in the field.

Carbon dioxide and ac-

etone (nail varnish remover) are the two components of cow's breath being used in the Antelope Island scheme.

The flies are attracted to the trap from which the odour is carried downwind, they enter and are then sterilised by an electronic device. This takes a few seconds.

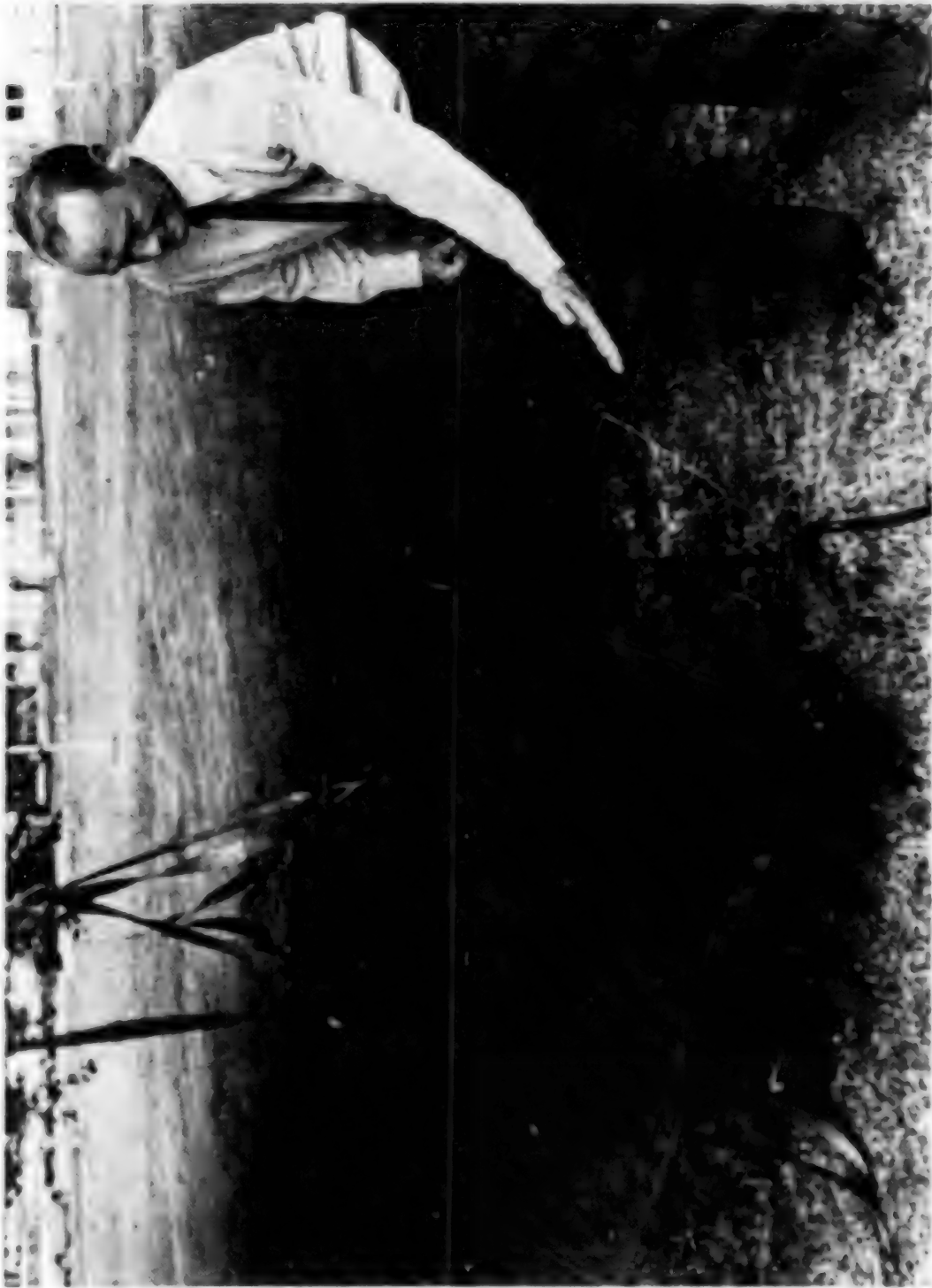
The tsetse flies are then let out of the steriliser. Male flies go off to mate with young females. All the young females that mate with a sterilised male fail to reproduce — thus cutting down heavily on the tsetse population.

Dr Vale said when the Antelope Island scheme started last year there were about 10 000 tsetse flies on the island.

The scheme has been catching about 1.5 per cent of the tsetse population a day with the five sterilising traps on Antelope Island.

"If we can get the exact attractant, then we will probably need only one sterilising trap every 10 km² and then we will really be in business," Dr Vale said.

He said that until the artificial cow-breath formula had been perfected they would continue with their present work, which he said was "progressing steadily".



CSO: 5400/5775

The chief glossinologist with the Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis Control Section of the Ministry of Agriculture, Mr Gerry Davison, with one of the screen traps in use on the Kariba mainland. The flies land on the cool inside section of the trap, which is sprayed with the insecticide that kills them.

MINISTRY CLAIMS ABILITY TO COPE WITH CHOLERA

Salisbury THE HERALD in English 14 Jan 82 p 11

[Text] Zimbabwe's health services are capable of dealing with any outbreak of cholera, the Ministry of Health said on Tuesday.

This announcement comes amid fears of a cholera invasion from South Africa where about 2 285 proven cases of cholera in South Africa and its bantustans were recently confirmed by the Pretoria government's Department of Health and Welfare.

Cases of cholera have recently been reported in Zambia, which puts Zimbabwe in a very vulnerable position, situated as it is right between the two cholera-stricken countries.

Outbreak

The Deputy Secretary for Health, Dr Louise Westwater, told Ziana on Tuesday, that as yet, no cases of cholera have been reported since the last outbreak in 1973.

"We are aware of the possibility that cholera can come into the country through visitors," Dr Westwater said. "But as soon as we get a case we will deal with it before it spreads. We have got the experience of 1973 where we stopped an outbreak of cholera from Mount Darwin getting to Salisbury.

She added that the Ministry of Health staff at all border points had their eyes peeled for any cases of cholera and could handle the epidemic effectively.

Dr Westwater said visitors into Zimbabwe were not required to have valid cholera vaccination certificates.

CSO: 5400/5775

BRIEFS

KILLER PLAGUE CONFIRMED--Bulawayo--Tests on bodies of two children brought from Lupane last week have established that they died of bubonic plague, a spokesman for Mpilo Hospital in Bulawayo, said last night. Government pathologist Dr E. Mason-Barker, who has been carrying out tests to establish the cause of death, said last night that tests had established positive plague infection. The children, aged 10 and six, died last week within four hours of being admitted to St Luke's Hospital, Lupane. [Salisbury THE HERALD in English 20 Jan 82 p 1]

PLAGUE DANGER OVER--Bulawayo--The recent cases of bubonic plague, which claimed the lives of two children in the Lupane area, were isolated outbreaks, the Secretary for Health, Dr Office Chidede, said yesterday. Dr Chidede was speaking after receiving a report from the scene of the outbreak, by a team of public health officers, led by the Provincial Medical Officer of Health for Matabeleland, Dr Alan Pugh. "Their conclusion is that the cases were isolated, and that there is no epidemic in the area," said Dr Chidede. In view of Dr Pugh's report of the situation there was nothing to worry about. Dr Chidede said all the relatives of the dead children were well, and their homes had been sprayed to eradicate any fleas left by infected rodents. Dr Chidede said precautions were being taken to ensure that the plague did not recur, and the situation would be monitored for as long as possible. Earlier Dr Pugh, who referred all inquiries to Dr Chidede, had merely alluded to his findings by saying his report was a "reassuring one". This echoed an earlier report by the chairman of the Kusile District Council, Mr Krosenbi Kumalo, who said the villagers had been told to return to their homes after deserting them when the children died within hours of admission to St Luke's Hospital on Wednesday last week. The authorities of the hospital suspected the plague and sent the bodies to Bulawayo for tests. Mr Kumalo said Dr Pugh had arrived with three other doctors, two health assistants, a nurse and a sister. "After checking the area for rats and spraying the village to kill fleas, the doctors said the people could return home without fear," Mr Kumalo said. [Text] [Salisbury THE HERALD in English 22 Jan 82 p 3]

CSO: 5400/5775

FAO PROVIDES ASSISTANCE IN TSETSE FLY CAMPAIGN

Beira DIARIO DE MOCAMBIQUE in Portuguese 4 Dec 81 p 16

[Text] Through the Ministry of Agriculture and FAO, Mozambique will conduct a joint study which, beginning next year, will allow to extend to other provinces of the country attempts to study diseases transmitted by the tsetse fly.

However, in the first place, regions of Caia (Sofala) and Niassa (province of the same name) could be covered, where it is hoped to develop large beef cattle, goat and pig projects.

In addition to opening more places for study in the provinces, this new study envisages training of cadres and purchase of material for the work brigades, including more medications. Nordic countries, through their support and development programs will have a rather active part in this action, especially Sweden.

In the meantime, a parallel action is growing in Muabaa, Inhambane Province, where an experimental center of national scope has been set up. In this establishment some improvement work is being done, such as installations to house technicians who take part in the training courses, and also a housing project for 100 workers and a guest house.

In addition, in that center conditions will be created for collecting rainwater, because the water supplied by the local well is salty.

Results Achieved

According to Nizamudine Mussagi, director of the National Center of Fight against Triponossomiasis and Tsetse Fly, located in Inhambane Province, the results shown this year reveal that the tsetse fly is spreading to the south of Vilanculos District.

Studies show that it probably is carried by wild animals, people in vehicles that pass through the region, and the indices this year are higher than in the 2 previous years.

Meanwhile, the action group of that center already carried out work in different places of Vilanculos, namely in Mabote (west), Marilane (southwest), Funhalouro and Massinga (southeast) and to the north, up to Save River.

The actions carried out were similar to those conducted in April and May in Muda and Buzi (in Sofala Province), Vanduzi (Tete) and in Tete and Cabo Delgado provinces.

These places were selected for the campaign because in those places there was suspicion of diseases caused by the tsetse fly, causing cattle deaths.

11635

CSO: 5400/5724

BRIEFS

'BLACKLEG' ALARMS CATTLE RAISERS--Tadian, Mt. Province--Cases of blackleg, a fatal animal disease, have been reported in the western section of the province, and livestock raisers in northern Luzon are worried the infestation may become rampant. Already, a number of unregistered cattle had succumbed to the disease. Caused by a micro-organism *Chlostridium chauvoei*, blackleg has victimized animals with ages ranging from four months to two years. The disease is indicated by painful swelling and later extensive hemorrhage. In advance stage, it can maim the animals and cause their death. Dr. Petro U. Dumo of the National Meat Inspection Commission told a recent bakahan and kambingang barangay seminar at Mountain State Agricultural College in Benguet that blackleg is among the common diseases adversely affecting livestock production in the country. In 1980 alone, about 105 cases had been reported in the north. Of the cases, 33 were fatal. Most of the affected animals were from the Ilocos and Cagayan regions. Control and prevention of animal diseases like blackleg remain a problem in Mountain Province. (Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS in English 20 Jan 82 p 8)

CSO: 5400/4918

FOOT-AND-MOUTH OUTBREAK CAUSES 'CRITICAL' BEEF SHORTAGE

Lusaka SUNDAY TIMES in English 17 Jan 82 p 7

[Excerpt] A CRITICAL shortage of beef has hit the Copperbelt and some parts of Central and Lusaka provinces following an outbreak of foot and mouth disease in Southern Province.

The situation has been aggravated by the move taken by State ranches and commercial farmers on the line of rail to sell weener steers only to organisations that fatten them before slaughter.

This was confirmed by Cold Storage Board of Zambia general manager Mr Dominic Chilao in Lusaka who said since the outbreak of the disease in November the board had only bought 137 animals from the area.

The CSBZ was allowed to buy the animals from eastern part of the tarred Kafue-Choma road.

The organisation faced a stiff competition from private butchers who were offering farmers as much as K1.50 per kg of live weight — 50 ngwee more than the official price.

"Even with this serious competition we have reports that meat is not available on the Copperbelt where most private butchers sell their animals."

He stressed that the policy by State ranches and commercial farmers to sell steers had left the board with no alternative but to buy beef cattle from traditional farmers.

Unfortunately most animals attacked by the disease belong to the peasant farmers.

So far Namwala, west Choma, east Monze and certain parts of Mazabuka have been affected by the virus.

At Mazabuka veterinary officials who had mounted spray pickets on all main and recess roads leading out of the affected areas of Ngwez settlement, Chief Mwanachingwala and Sianjalika, said so far no deaths had been reported.

District veterinary officer Dr Andrew Kingston thanked villagers for complying with his orders to stop the movement of animals and local commercial farmers for assisting the department.

Dr Kingston said the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Development had assured the department that a consignment of vaccines from Botswana was expected in the country before the end of the month.

Mazabuka has one of the largest concentration of commercial farmers in the province and is the main supplier of milk.

Dairy Produce Board general manager Mr Boniface Sandala said in Lusaka the board with the help of veterinary officers in Mazabuka had made adequate arrangements to collect milk from the affected areas.

Threatened

Milk delivery trucks are sprayed and only drivers having special identification tags are allowed to buy the commodity.

SPREAD OF FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE

Lusaka DAILY MAIL in English 9 Jan 82 p 3

[Excerpt]

UNLESS the Party and its Government take urgent steps to eradicate the foot and mouth disease in Mazabuka, cattle population in the district could be completely wiped out by the year 2,000.

Addressing the last Mazabuka District Council meeting yesterday, the area acting governor, Mr Nicholas Nchimunya urged the government to allocate more vaccines to the district to combat the disease.

Mr Nchimunya said the vaccines given to the district had been exhausted while the disease had since spread to Chief Mwana-chingwala and Sianjalika where 16,000 are affected.

He rejected the system where the Party and its Government saw its role as that of combating an epidemic saying that prevention was always better than cure.

"I can assure you that unless the Party and its

Government took tangible measures to protect the animals there would be no more cattle in this area by the year 2,000," he added.

The governor urged councillors, heads of departments and Party leaders to discourage cattle owners from moving cattle from one area to another and also encourage them to co-operate with veterinary officers.

CSO: 5400/5777

BRIEFS

FOOT-AND-MOUTH ENDED--Bulawayo--There is now no foot-and-mouth disease in Matabeleland for the first time in more than three years, the provincial veterinary officer, Dr J. O. K. Rodger, said yesterday. This was the result of extensive vaccination campaigns in commercial farms and communal lands. However, there were still problems with anthrax and rabies because of people not bringing cattle and dogs for vaccination, he said. [Text] [Salisbury THE HERALD in English 21 Jan 82 p 4]

CSO: 5400/5775

BRIEFS

PAW PAW, BANANA VIRUS--A virus which has been killing off paw paw trees in Barbados seems to be affecting bananas as well. Small farmer Bill Frost of Greenidge Village, Paynes Bay, St James, said that pawpaw trees on his land had all died and now all his banana trees were also affected like many others all across the island. Earlier in the year, Dr Winston Small, a plant pathologist, whose services were engaged by the Ministry of Agriculture, revealed that the disease was known as "Bunchy Top Disease" and that it was prevalent in Trinidad, Guyana and a number of other Caribbean countries. This caused the leaves to turn yellow, shrivel and die from the top downward. Frost said that while he had noticed the problem with the paw paw trees early in the year, it was only in recent months that he recognised it in the banana trees. The 65-year-old former plantation manager, said that the trees were bearing fruit and then drying at the leaves. This, he added, gave the bananas just enough time to become almost fully grown, but then, with the dying of the tree they could not ripen. Frost said: "It is very heartbreaking to grow trees and then watch them die before your eyes." He said he was no expert on the matter and so would like the Ministry of Agriculture to look into it. Ministry of Agriculture officials said that they planned to do so. [Text] [Bridgetown THE NATION in English 29 Dec 81 p 2]

CSO: 5400/7522

CAMPAIGN AGAINST QUELEA BIRD CALLED SUCCESSFUL

Addis Ababa THE ETHIOPIAN HERALD in English 29 Dec 81 pp 1, 4

[Text]

ADDIS ABABA (EH) — The 1981 control campaign against the Red-billed Quelea, a bird pest of lowland cereals, has recently been completed. Damage assessments in the major sorghum growing areas associated with the Awash River Basin estimate that potential losses here have been reduced by a minimum of 35,000 tonnes of sorghum. The programme of quelea control used in the Ethiopian Rift Valley has proven to be successful over the past four years; and it appears to be as effective as any found in Africa, according to a press release by the Quelea Project.

The release said that the programme is based on a strategy of selective control of only those groups of birds believed likely to do damage. This depends on understanding the migratory movements of the queleas as they relate to the timing and distribution of susceptible cereals. The emphasis of the control is, therefore, on protecting the crop and not on exterminating the bird. An important effect of this is to reduce significantly the amount of control necessary, thereby reducing the costs and the extent of environmental damage from pesticides, according to the release.

The release goes on to say that the quelea is believed to be the most numerous and destructive bird pest found anywhere in the world. Their dense flocks entering or departing night roosts often appear in the sky as ribbons of black smoke extending to the horizon, and form an awesome spectacle. Queleas are weaverbirds and nest in dense colonies which can contain several million or more birds. They are found only in grassland Africa where they affect cereals production in more than 20 countries. Sorghums, millets, wheat, and rice are the most seriously affected. Average annual losses in eastern Africa alone, including Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan, and Tanzania, are estimated at 13 million dollars. The situation is further aggravated by this damage being locally severe and often confined to drought-prone areas which have only one cropping season per year, and where food shortages are most common, the release noted.

Breeding Colonies

It was learnt that large-scale quelea control began in the 1940's in several areas of Africa including the Sudan, Tanzania, and parts of west-

ern and southern Africa. The aim was to exterminate the species or at least to reduce its numbers to harmless levels. This attempt was made in the form of the destruction of birds assembled in night roosts or breeding colonies using explosives, flamethrowers, or more recently, aerial spraying of pesticides. Despite reports of "billions" of queleas being destroyed annually, the damage continued. Control was very costly and often dangerous, and it could cover only a relatively small part of the queleas' range due to logistical difficulties of movement in many areas, the release further pointed out. In addition, queleas regularly re-invade areas after control has been carried out. This is due in part to their being migratory, and because in years of favorable rainfall their numbers can rebound in a very short time with two or three successive breedings in a single season, the release added.

"By the mid-1960's" continued the release "it was generally recognized that a new approach to the quelea problem was needed, and that it should be based on additional information about their migratory patterns. With this information and with greater regional cooperation in surveys and control, it was believed that the problem could be managed". It further indicated that it was at this time that several international organizations, including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), became involved. The FAO called a meeting at Douala, Cameroon, in 1965 at which 16 countries tabled requests for assistance.

As a consequence a regional project was started in 1970 with headquarters in N'Djamena, Chad. Ethiopia became actively involved in 1976. At present, there are separate FAO regional projects in both eastern and western Africa, and FAO national projects in East African countries, including Ethiopia, Kenya, and Tanzania. The National project in Ethiopia "Control of Grain-Eating Birds", is undertaken jointly with the Ministry of Agriculture. It is a part of the Plant Protection Division of the Agricultural Development Department which serves the peasant farmer.

The release also revealed that a first objective of the quelea programme in Ethiopia was to obtain the necessary information on the cereals most affected, their seasonal distribution, the extent of bird damage, and the important pest birds and their social distribution.

Control Programme

Based on this, the need for a control programme was determined together with the most important damage situations upon which it should focus. Extensive surveys over the past six years have shown that the principal bird pest problem in Ethiopia is damage to lowland sorghum in the Rift Valley by queleas. Approximately 60 per cent of the country's lowland sorghum is found here; and most of this, or roughly 250,000 tonnes, is produced annually in the northern Rift in association with the highland boundaries of the Awash River Basin, it was learned. This is from Kobo/Alamata in the north to the Jijiga Plain in the east. Damage assessments here indicate that birds, principally,

queleas, can destroy at least 16 per cent or 40,000 tonnes per year. This damage can be locally severe, such as at Jijiga in 1976 where an estimated 18,000 tonnes were destroyed, according to the release.

Breeding colonies first form in the south during May and in the northern Ogaden during June. In 1981 nine colonies were located in southern Sidamo and Gamo Goffa and an additional five across the border in Kenya. These are difficult to find because they are generally in dense thornbush and frequently in seasonally flooded areas. In addition, individual colonies are very synchronous with all the birds beginning breeding at the same time and the colony dispersing after about only forty days. At dispersal many of the adults from both the southern Rift and the northern Ogaden migrate into the upper and middle Awash River Valley where they breed a second time in September and October. In 1981 eleven colonies were found in the general vicinity of Gewane, with three near Abadir, two at Lake Zwai, and one at Malkassa. These disperse by mid-October, just at the time when maturing sorghum is susceptible along the boundaries of the Awash Basin, and it is then that the damage occurs.

The release further elaborated that the present control strategy focusses on destroying these September-October nesting colonies in the Awash Valley. They represent an estimated 8 to 12 million birds annually, and

are concentrated into a combined total of approximately 200 hectares of breeding colony. Control is done by aerial spraying of specially formulated pesticides. The spraying is usually done by the Desert Locust Control Organization for Eastern Africa, which is very experienced in this type of work.

Selective Control

The release continued to say that the effectiveness of this control is checked by measuring the bird damage just prior to harvest in the major lowland sorghum growing areas, which include Kobo/Alamata, Woldia, Bati, Chefa, Robi/Jawa, Minjar, Mieso/Asobot, Bisidimo, Fafam, and Jijiga. The 1981 figures are similar to those since 1978 when control of these breeding colonies was first undertaken. They estimate an overall loss to birds of two per cent, or approximately 5,000 tonnes, compared to 16 per cent or 40,000 tonnes without this control.

This result clearly demonstrates that selective control can be very effective. As more is learned about the distribution and movements of the queleas, this control can become even more selective and can include more of the country. Further development of rain-fed cereals agriculture in semi-arid Africa will depend in large part in being able to manage successfully the queleas, and in a cost-efficient and environmentally safe manner, the release concluded.

NORTHERN REGIONS EXPECTING ARMYWORM INVASION

Dar es Salaam DAILY NEWS in English 19 Jan 82 p 1

[Article by Anaclet Rwegayura]

[Text]

THE biggest wave of armyworms in recent years is expected to invade the northern Tanzania regions this season, it was disclosed here yesterday.

Commenting on the widespread outbreaks of the worms in the central parts of the country, the pest control services co-ordinator in the ministry of agriculture, Ndugu A.M. Mushi, said "unless something is done soon to break the months' life cycle, the caterpillars will cause a devastating loss of food crops."

As a precaution, he said, the ministry had already requested the Nairobi-based Desert Locust Control Organisation (DLCO) for Eastern Africa to keep stand-by aircraft for aerial spraying against the worms.

As a memberstate of DLCO, he said, Tanzania could use the aircraft for 80 hours. He said DLCO had also been advised to mobilise its vehicles for the operation which may take off between February and March.

Kilimanjaro, Arusha, Mara and Mwanza regions have meanwhile been urged by the

pest control services to maintain adequate stocks of pesticides in all districts, ready to encounter armyworm outbreaks.

According to a NAFCO spokesman, the corporation was preparing 30,000 acres for planting wheat and barley in the Hanang wheat complex and another 8,000 acres for wheat only in west Kilimanjaro as soon as the rains start.

While no new armyworm outbreaks are expected this week in other areas, it has been reported that Manyoni and Kiomboi districts of Singida Region were heavily attacked by the worms last week.

Similar outbreaks during the past week persisted in Morogoro and Dodoma regions with fresh ones in Hanang and Mtwara districts of Arusha Region as well as Handeni district in Tanga region.

Meanwhile, army worms have been spotted in Ifakara, Mang'ula and Mngata Divisions of Kilombero district in Morogoro region. Efforts are being made to obtain pesticides to fight them.

DODOMA COMBATS QUELEAQUELEA BIRDS

Dar es Salaam DAILY NEWS in English 15 Jan 82 p 3

[Text] Dodoma--Dodoma region has ordered 3,000 litres of queleatox pesticide for use in spraying the grain-eating queleaquelea which are feared could start attacking crops by the end of next month.

The Regional Agricultural Development Officer, Ndugu T.A Kamugisha said in Dodoma yesterday that there are 300 litres of the pesticide left over from last year's spraying.

Spraying on the viscious birds is expected to be carried out by planes to be hired from Nairobi-based Desert Locust Control Organisation for Eastern Africa (DLCO-EA).

An official of the bird control unit in Dodoma said the locust control body will this time also provide a helicopter which will be used to spot the birds and earmark the areas to be sprayed.

CSO: 5400/5789

TURKEY

ENTOMOLOGICAL WARFARE MOUNTED IN ADANA

Istanbul HURRIYET in Turkish 20 Dec 81 p 8

[Report by Abdulkadir Kacar]

[Text] Adana--The human brain seems to be capable of doing anything. When the fear of hunger is at issue man is capable of making insects eat each other. The Faculty of Agriculture of Cukurova University has even established an "insect house" in an effort to strengthen man's hand in entomological warfare. Ladybugs bred in this house, when released into a citrus grove, are capable of exterminating all plant lice which are extremely harmful to citrus.

Professor Nedim Uygun has been serving as a member of faculty of the Cukurova University for the past 10 years. Before that he spent 5 years in Germany on research on plant care. Currently his work focuses on entomological warfare.

Why Biological Warfare?

Currently there are five methods to fight against agricultural pests: chemical, physical and integrated methods, culture of micro-organisms and entomological warfare. These methods are improved every day. The method used most frequently is chemical warfare. Professor Uygun says that the frequent and unscrupulous use of chemical methods has caused adverse effects on animals as well as humans and that some pests have multiplied in number as a result of the spoiled ecological balance. Stating that entomological warfare is the most beneficial method available, Uygun says:

"In an effort to eliminate the adverse effects of chemical warfare on animal and human health man has invented biological warfare which means pitting living creatures against other living creatures. The objective is to increase production of food and to resist the threat of hunger. In biological warfare pests are countered and annihilated by an animal similar to themselves. This is a low-cost and effective method."

Talents of the Ladybug

Biological warfare was initially developed for use in the citrus groves. So far 36 useful animals have been identified to fight numerous pest types whose number is not yet exactly known. Most important among these useful creatures is the ladybug.

The ladybug seems to be very talented. It is a deadly enemy of the plant louse that has been causing great damage to citrus trees. Ladybugs on a citrus tree mean death for plant lice on that tree. Even lice eggs do not escape. As the best known heroes of entomological warfare--which began 15 years ago--ladybugs are bred at the Agricultural Research Institutes of Adana and Antalya. Then they are packaged and distributed to citrus growers.

A New Breed of Ladybugs

A new breed of ladybug has jointly been developed by the Cukurova University and the Agricultural Research Institute of Adana. This new insect seems to be more skilled than the other one because it affects a host of other pests.

The other well-known heroes of biological warfare are the hoverfly and the bee-fly. The hoverfly is specially effective against plant lice. It feeds on plant lice and so is useful to mankind.

The bee-fly is the deadly enemy of harmful caterpillars. It lays its eggs on the bodies of the caterpillars. The larvae hatching out of these eggs later kill the caterpillars.

Hunger Threat

Turkey is one of the seven countries in the world self-sufficient in food. But we too face the threat of hunger in the future. Professor Uygun claims that biological warfare is the best available means in delaying the threat of hunger. He says:

"In delaying the threat of hunger biological warfare cannot be adequate on its own. In addition to biological warfare scrupulous use must be made of so-called integrated agricultural spraying which will decimate harmful insects and increase the chance of survival of the useful ones. The combined use of these methods will reduce expenses and waste of time, protect human and animal health, prevent environmental pollution and increase production. Consequently, the threat of hunger will be delayed."

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ZAMBIA

BRIEFS

ARMYWORM CROP DAMAGE--Singida--Although armyworms continue to swarm Singida Region, there has been no further reports of crop damages. The Regional Livestock Development Officer, Ndugu Kiariro, said that the destruction caused to 10 per cent of the region's food and cash crops earlier this month remains the only damage so far detected. [Text] [Dar es Salaam DAILY NEWS in English 20 Jan 82 p 3]

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